TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 1998

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Nancy Marsden KD4ITX 268-3990
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

If by chance you missed the August meeting, you missed a fun meeting. The program consisted of members standing and telling their favorite funny joke or short story. The response was good. Thanks to all for sharing their humor with us.

Now that autumn is near, we will soon be enjoying the return of many of our friends from their home away from home.

A reminder of the two local hamfests coming up in September. On the 12th and 13th at Melbourne. Les will need help at the club table(s). On September 26, the Daytona club will put on another great hamfest. TARC has two tables reserved for this event. If you would care to share a ride, get in touch with me so that arrangements may be made to get you to Daytona. Also, a reminder that the September meeting will feature our annual "POT-LUCK" dinner. Club business will be dispensed with posthaste so that maximum time may be devoted to our most important past time , "mastication of delicious food" and chatter with friends. We may need to rustle up 6 to 8 tables and extra chairs for this dinner. If you have an extra folding table or some folding chairs that you would let the club borrow . please let me know. Sherry, KF4HTC is forming a telephone committee to remind members of the pot-luck dinner. If you can help her with the telephoning, please call her at home (269-0779) or at work (267-3450).

I plan to call a board meeting in the near future to try to find a way for "out of town" members to be able to cast their vote either by proxy or absentee ballot in the election of officers and board members at the November meeting.

Hope to see you at the Melbourne and Daytona Hamfests and by all means at the POT-LUCK DINNER on September 22 at 6:30 PM.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPT. 5 KA4NZM DICK RUFFE
SEPT. 8 KF4LTY PAT RENNINGER
SEPT. 9 KF4QML KEVIN ZIMMERMAN
SEPT.11 WC4FSU HELEN STRAUGHN
SEPT.14 W4VQB BOB NEDIMYER
SEPT.15 W1BSO MAYNARD CHENEY
SEPT.15 KE4GWQ CLYDE CARTER
SEPT.15 KC4HIQ SHIRLEY SWEATT
SEPT.19 KD4CBV GEORGE BORTLE
SEPT.20 KF4CXZ DEBORAH HARRINGTON
SEPT.23 W9KBV BILL GIBBONS
SEPT.24 KE4JBF JOAN HATFIELD
SEPT.27 WA4QJK TOM McCALL
SEPT.28 KD4UZS JOE CARTER
SEPT.28 KZ5FG GEORGE FLORES
SEPT.30 W4UTU CLAYTON THOMPSON

DON'T FORGET!!
SEPTEMBER 22 AT 6:30 PM
POT LUCK SUPPER
BRING A COVERED DISH.
TURKEY, HAM, DRESSING, GRAVY
FURNISHED BY THE CLUB.
BRING THE FAMILY!!

A NEW ZEALAND HAM OPERATOR HAS BEEN ORDERED OFF THE SHORT-WAVE BROADCAST BANDS

A Christchurch radio operator has been broadcasting his "Plains FM" programs all over the world.

Electronics engineer Bede Ives has been transmitting the community service by short-wave from his Linwood home for several years. The New Zealand Ministry of Commerce, who have been aware of his operation for several years, now want him off the air. Ives has chosen to ignore an official warning and faces a fine of $30,000 to $200,000 if he continues.

He says his 7.1 Mhz operation is authorized by the *United Nations Human Rights Act* which provides for use of the airwaves "...to communicate, educate, inform, or impart knowledge." While the 7.1 to 7.3 Mhz (40 meter) band is allocated to the Amateur Service in our hemisphere, it is used for short-wave broadcasting in the rest of the world.

NEW CD-ROM DOES NOT SPIN!

From W5YI Report 6/12/98

James Russell, said to be the inventor of digital optical data recording that led to the modern-day CD-ROM, has created OROM, a new CD-ROM system with no moving parts. It packs 128 MB in a small disk about the size of a business card.

The OROM (Optical ROM) system will be marketed for use in portable information devices, and will be used to distribute software, electronic publications, multimedia content and entertainment. The disk is contained in a "data card" that is inserted into a small reader unit. Data access time is 10 milliseconds (ten times faster than CD-ROMs) at 1.6 MB/second.

Instead of reading data one bit at a time by rotating the disk as in conventional technology, the OROM sits still and is illuminated by LEDs

inside the reader. Data is prerecorded into more than 5000 "Patches" on the disk, each storing 32 kilobytes of data. Light from the LEDs shines through the disk onto an image sensor and is converted into digital information for use by the computer or other device.

The system is not susceptible to data loss due to shock and vibration. It uses very little power (200 mW), and only during the 10 ms. data access period. At other times the reader consumes no power at all. A desktop recording system and recordable data cards will also be sold, for low volume production of data cards.

According to the manufacturer, Ioptics, "Some of the first applications for OROM will be in handheld PCs, miniature notebooks and Auto-PCs, as well as embedded systems like point-of-sale systems, industrial controls and TV set-top boxes. Ioptics also expects a significant market opportunity in portable video game and personal audio players."

The company anticipates product shipments starting in mid 1999. The initial user price for the reader will be about $200, with data cards priced at about $2.00-3.00.

Want to get in on the ground floor of this exciting technology? A certain Mr. Bill Gates is ahead of you. Microsoft Corp. is an early investor in the privately held Ioptics, which is located in Bellevue, WA. Ioptics has raised about $15 million to date.
(http://www.ioptics.com)

EXTRA CLASS HAM CHARGED WITH MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE AND UNLICENSED OPERATION

A 31 year veteran FAA employee was arrested and charged with two Federal crimes for allegedly transmitting obscene language on an itinerant business frequency.

Cecil F. Owin Jr., AA5HX, an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator from Houston was officially charged on May 12, 1998, in U.S.District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, for malicious interference to radio communications and for broadcasting without a license. He was not charged with the more serious federal felony crime of broadcasting obscene language which carries a maximum of 2 years imprisonment and a $250,000 fine.

Owin was caught red-handed following a probe into reports of sexual threats broadcast over 151.625 Mhz, a frequency used by Continental Express Airlines ground employees. Continental Express was forced to increase security at its Ellington Field operations following complaints by several female employees that someone was breaking into their radio system on a daily basis over a two month period with offensive and lewd comments. When apprehended, Owin was monitoring the Houston Police Department channel to determine if they were talking about him. They were, but on another channel used by the Houston Airport Police.

A joint investigation involving Houston FCC Resident Agents, Loyd Perry and Oliver Long, the Houston Police Criminal Intelligence Division and the military police, spanned the period of December 15, 1997 through February 11, 1998. FCC mobile DF units revealed that the transmissions were originating from an FAA facility at Houston's Ellington Field.

While on his job as a maintenance worker, Owin was arrested and his illegally modified Alinco DJ960 handheld radio was seized. Owin was also banned from all military facilities located at the airport. Once an Air Force base, there are some military facilities still located at the airport now operated by the City of Houston.

Released on a $10,000 PR bond, Owin was reassigned to another Houston FAA facility pending the outcome of this case. Owin obtained his first ham ticket in 1979 as KA5SIT.

According to Assistant U.S.Attorney Mike Schultz, Owin could have been charged with a Title 18 obscenity crime. But due to his cooperation after arrest, he was charged with two lesser misde-meanor crimes, punishable with a maximum penalty of 1 year in jail and a $100,000

fine on each of the two counts. Owin could also lose his amateur radio license since the FCC has held that serious communications violations committed in one radio service can impact licenses held in others.

The U.S.Attorney's office said what made this case particularly egregious was that Owin was a government employee committing a crime at a government facility, on government time against the very entity his agency was designed to protect, the airlines. Schultz said the situation might have been handled differently by his office had he been an ordinary citizen doing it once or twice.

Over the years Owin has also been suspected of jamming several local Houston area ham repeaters including a popular Monday night net operation on 146.94. Suspicions arose after suspect signals were allegedly traced to the trailer park where he resided. *(Criminal Case No. CR 98-165, U.S.District Court, Southern District of Texas)*

.TIMEWAVE TECHNOLOGY RESTRUCTURES

President Randy Gawtry of Timewave Technology announced that due to excessive debt load they will be restructuring under the Chapter 11 bankruptcy laws. Timewave is a manufacturer of high quality/high performance DSP external filters for transceivers. Last year, Timewave purchased the rights to all the products in the former AEA data product line (not including antennas and antenna analyzers). Tempo Research Corporation purchased the rights to the AEA name and the antennas and antenna analyzer products. Tempo Research and Timeware Technology are not connected in any way.

Gawtry states that manufacturing is continuing and that he personally plans to keep operations going into the future at a level that can be profitably maintained. Customer service for all Timewave products including the former AEA data products will continue including upgrade service for the popular PK-232 data controller.

REVIEW OF THE GAP "TITAN DX" AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA

From 8/98 Cyberskip Digest
By J. Robert Woodstock, W4JRW

After being licensed as an amateur radio operator for 30 years and having the privilege of either owning. or using almost every conceivable antenna made by man, I couldn't help but wonder what this new-fangled antenna was, called the GAP "TITAN DX".

The intriguing part of the GAP design, which stirred my curiosity, was the idea of the elevated feed point, which increases the antenna's feed point impedance thus minimizing the ground loss. Additionally, having an antenna, which works well on all 8 HF amateur bands without switching feed lines or tuning out reactance each time you change bands was also a motiving factor when choosing the GAP and talking to the GAP Antenna Products Company in Fellsmere, Florida plus other hams who own them, I was hooked.

FIRST EMPRESSIONS: The antenna was received one day after ordering it from my regional radio toy store and was in excellent condition. The shipment came in two boxes. One about 9 feet long and weighed in at about 30 lb., the other was about 1 ft. square and about a pound. Upon opening the professionally packaged boxes I delightfully found good quality materials and some pre-assembled parts. While looking for the manual I located 5 poor quality double sided, copy machine reproduced pieces of 8-1/2 x 14" paper with hand-drawn illustrations (not even stapled together and in desperate need of toner) marked "Installation and Assembly Instructions." Accompanying these papers were a professionally printed pamphlet titled "Revolutionary Antenna Technology" and a card of stamp stickers with the GAP Logo intended to be placed on QSL Cards. (A bit presumptuous at this point). Although this was interesting reading, these extras did not enhance the assembly or parts inventory at all.

THE PARTS INVENTORY: The Installation and Assembly Instructions refer you to *Figure B* and

tell you to check the various parts in the shipping container against the pictorial, then next to review *Figure A* that depicts the assembled Titan. There was NO Figure A or Figure B in among the faded reproductions offered, however there was a centerfold with faded free-hand drawn illustrations marked *Figure 1 and Figure 2* which provided the information needed to do an inventory. A positive point to note at this time is the fact that GAP provides the customer with a free nut driver to be used in the assembly and extra hardware (1 screw and 1 washer) so the "lawn" can consume some without depriving the construction of the antenna of assembly pieces. When I ordered the antenna, I specified a frequency of 3.930 Mhz on 75 meters. While doing the inventory I could only assume that I had the correct CAP unit since the component, which determines this is encapsulated and painted green with no other markings, nor charts, which depict the different center frequency targets.

ASSEMBLY: The installation and Assembly Instructions inform the customer that a 1-1/4" OD pipe be procured to attach the antenna plus a 1-1/4" x 3 ' piece of schedule 40 PVC. What they do not tell you in the instructions is that you really need a 1" galvanized water pipe (information obtained by calling the company) which was an additional $16.50 plus $4.00 for the PVC (in 1998 money) plus time, gas and travel to the local hardware store. It would have been nice to have these included in the antenna kit.

With the site prepared the assembly commenced. After laying out and examining the parts in the open shipping conainer at the site, I thought to myself, "how hard can it be to assemble a dozen pieces of aluminum"? Assembly went very well. With the instructions, illustrations, a little luck and some common sense, the antenna was in the air in about 4 hours (including the trip to the hardware store for the PVC and water pipe). It would have been a little easier assembling the Tuner Rod Assembly if the illustration had been better but once I understood what was to be done, common sense took care of the rest. With the help of my wife Sharon, I lifted the 24-foot maze of tubes, aluminum pipe and nylon rope into its new resting place. It really is a two person job only because the base of the water pipe must remain at the rim of the PVC until the antenna is almost vertical when it will slide into the PVC on its own...The second person's job is to keep the base on target. I must say at this point that the optional Guy Line Kit is a must! The 40 meter Counterpoise and Hoop Assembly was then installed, the PL-259 connector dressed and terminated on the coax and then connected to a 70" run of coax running into the shack. Now is the time to quit cutting bait and start fishing...

On the air checks went well. Bearing in mind that all I had to compare the TITAN to was my 130' non-resonant dipole using 450 Ohm balanced feed line and mounted 55' at the apex. (A high angle antenna) Overall I am very happy with the performance of the TITAN DX Antenna for what it is. Understandably, contacts on 75 and 40 meters less than 1000 miles were mostly High Angle and the dipole outperformed the vertical, however on the other bands it held its own which isn't bad for a 24' vertical antenna mounted on the ground.

CONCLUSION:

I am extremely happy with my new antenna. If I did not have room for a large dipole or tower mounted antennas, I would highly recommend this antenna. It MUST be guyed and is very sensitive to nearby metallic objects especially vertical ones, although this is explained in the Assembly Instructions. Ah yes, the "Installation and Assembly Instructions"! They have a lot to be desired. For a World-Class antenna in the $300 price range, I expected to see a professionally printed manual with photographic illustrations and a (Technical Writer) written text. This not withstanding, if you are looking for a good vertical "which does radiate equally well in all directions", by all means give serious consideration to the GAP "TITAN DX"

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike Abell W4EPU

Let's review our own "uNick" Trader Net:

What's uNick about it? Well, for one thing, the net controller is none other than Nick Gray, KF4SEK. He is by far the youngest NCS in the Club. If you have shopping or swapping in mind, and if it has the remotest connection to amateur radio, Nick's Trader Net is the place to go, Mondays at 7:00 PM (early check-ins at 6:30).

When listening to, or checking into the net, besides advertising or hearing others advertising to buy or sell something, one may hear some plain old chit-chat. But hey! Nick will not shush you up. He may, and often does, join in the chit-chat.

After all, there is plenty of time for swap and shop, and shooting the breeze. And, what's 'uNick' about Nick? Actually, he only became interested in amateur radio a couple of years ago. He obtained his No-code Technician license on June 2, 1997, at the age of 17. Just this month (August 7, to be exact) he reached the ripe old age of 19.

Right after getting his license, Nick became an active member of the Titusville Radio Club. Not long thereafter he started up the trader net he still controls.

Nick tells me he is working on his code and pretty soon hopes to up-grade and be able to operate on some of the other bands.

I encourage anyone who has anything to sell, or is in need of anything that pertains to amateur radio to get on the net and let it be known.

Let's keep Nick busy negotiating big deals. Attaboy, Nick.....73s es 88s

MELBOURNE AREA REPEATERS

Freq out/in	CTCSS	Callsign	Location
6 Meters			
53.050/52.050	103.5	KE4ATS	Bithlo
53.070/52.070	118.8	WB4OEZ	Cocoa
220 MHz			
224.500/222.900		N4LEM	Cocoa
440 MHz			
442.075/447.075	103.5	AB4CQ	Bithlo
443.800/448.800	103.5	WB4OEZ	Melbourne
443.950/448.950	203.5	KC4OOS	Merritt Island
444.150/449.150	103.5	WB4SIG	Titusville
444.250/449.250	103.5	KB4ND	Cocoa Beach
444.350/449.350	103.5	W4OHL	Bithlo
444.425/449.425	100.0	KT4DI	Melbourne
444.525/449.525	103.5	KD4LXC	Rockledge
444.575/449.575	103.5	WB4OEZ	Melbourne
444.650/449.650		W4NLX	Cocoa Beach
444.675/449.675	103.5	WB4OEZ	Cocoa
444.725/449.725	100.0	KC4IBG	
444.750/449.750	103.5	N4LEM	Cocoa
444.825/449.825	Linked to 147.105	VE2GU	Melbourne
444.900/449.900	103.5	VE2GU	Melbourne
444.925/449.925	103.5	WB4OEZ	Titusville
2 Meters			
145.170/144.570	107.2	KF4APQ	Palm Bay
145.190/144.590		N4LEM	Cocoa
145.270/144.670		K4YWC	Palm Bay
145.370/144.770		W4NLX	Cocoa Beach
145.410/144.810		W4BWS	Melbourne
145.430/144.830		W4KYG	Melbourne
145.470/144.870	107.2	KF4APQ	Melbourne
146.610/146.010		W4MLB	Melbourne
146.625/146.025		W4BWS	Melbourne
146.715/146.115		KD4DJX	Cocoa
146.745/146.145		K4YWC	Melbourne
146.850/146.250	107.2	W4MLB	Palm Bay
146.880/146.280		W4NLX	Cocoa Beach
146.895/146.295		K4EOC	Palm Bay
146.910/146.310		K4SJC	Titusville
146.940/146.340		K4GCC	Merritt Island
146.970/146.370		AF4ER ~~WB4OEZ~~	Titusville
147.000/146.400		K4YWC	Melbourne
147.030/147.630		W4REN	Cocoa
147.075/147.675		K4BOC	Titusville
147.105/147.705	Linked to 444.825	KC4YEK	Melbourne
147.135/147.735		K4EOC	Rockledge
147.225/147.825		AD4GO	Palm Bay
147.360/147.960		N4LEM	Cocoa

TAKEN FROM PCARS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST MEETING

By Nancy KD4ITX

The regular monthly meeting of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 1910 hours by President Bud Hughes, K4CWG. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, 24 members and guests introduced themselves.

Bud announced Daytona's Hamfest will be September 26 at Emery Riddle University. Also, Melbourne Hamfest will be September 12 and 13. Members were asked if the club would like to have a table set up at the Melbourne Hamfest. With no interest shown, there will be no club table at the hamfest.

Bud thanked Ralph, AC4LE for having the equipment ready for Hurricane Bonnie. Ralph, AC4LE reported the club has one complete case set up with radio, antenna, etc. for emergencies, but we need at least four more cases outfitted. There are 13 locations with antennas in place. Ralph needs volunteers to be put on a list to man evacuation centers.

AC4WM, Mitch, is headed to the Persian Gulf. A schedule has been set up to try and contact him. Listen for Mitch on Wednesdays at 2 PM on 14300 or at 2:30 on 21313.

KB0OQJ, Ken, reported they need crystals for the repeater they are working on to go in the north end of the county. The cost is $21.45 for each crystal. The total cost is $42.90. A motion was made, seconded and carried for the club to purchase the crystals.

KC4UUX, Alan, is compiling a list of the club's assets. If you have any equipment that belongs to the club please contact Alan by phone or e-mail (marsden@Tnn.net). It is very important that we make an inventory list of all the club's equipment and the location of such equipment. Alan also pointed out some procedures that need to be followed when manning an evacuation center:

1) Make sure you log in. List any helpers.
2) Check in with the shelter coordinator.
3. Locate the nearest phone and know it's number.
4) Check in with net control.
5) Keep the log up to date. If you make a mistake, initial it and keep going.
6) Keep your area clean.
7) If you leave any equipment, make sure you mark it with your call and put in the log that you have left it.

Bud reminded everyone to turn in a copy of their receipts from AES. The deadline is September 1.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to vote in new members. The welcome mat goes out to Peggy Miller, KF4OXV and G. K. Pace, KF4ZOJ.

There was no guest speaker for the meeting. Members enjoyed stories and jokes by fellow members.

The September meeting will be our annual Pot Luck Dinner. Bring your family and a covered dish or two.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

TREASURERS REPORT

By Clyde Lee K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1997	$5356.73
Deposits Year to Date	3383.64
TOTAL INCOME	**8740.37**
Expenditures	3084.66
BALANCE AS AT 05/31/98	**5655.71**
FEMA Escrow	1794.38
BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS	**$3868.33**

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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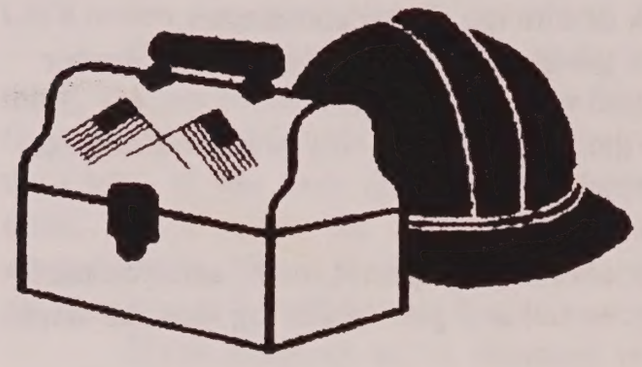

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 248 (187 regular, 54 family, 7 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: None

RENEWALS: W4GMW Neal Cranston

HAMFESTS:

SEPT.12/13 MELBOURNE
SEPT. 26 DAYTONA
SEPT. 27 NEW PORT RICHEY
OCT. 4 MAITLAND
OCT. 10/11 TAMPA
OCT. 17 STARKE
OCT.17/18 W.PALM BEACH
NOV. 7 SORRENTO
NOV. 14 TITUSVILLE
NOV. 14 PORT ST. LUCIE
NOV.21/22 TAMPA
DEC. 5 OKEECHOBEE
DEC. 5 OCALA
DEC.12 LAKE CIT